



Sustaining Rocky Mountain Landscapes: Science, Policy and Management for the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem

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The Rocky Mountain region is one of the fastest growing regions in the United States and Canada. Between 1990 and 2000, the population of the U.S. Rocky Mountain region increased 23 percent compared to 13.2 percent for the United States. One Rocky Mountain ecosystem experiencing rapid population and economic growth is the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem (CCE). The CCE covers portions of northwestern Montana, southwestern Alberta, and southeastern British Columbia, and contains many spectacular natural areas, including Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall, Great Bear, Scapegoat, Rattlesnake and Mission Mountains Wilderness areas in Montana, Waterton Lakes National Park and Highwood River in Alberta, and Elk Valley in British Columbia. The core of the CCE is the transboundary Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, which is the world's first international peace park, a Biosphere Reserve, and a World Heritage Site.

Growth in the CCE has been stimulated by the desire of people to live, work and play in a region offering abundant natural and social amenities, and recreational opportunities. On the economic side, economic growth and development in the CCE are restructuring the regional economy from one based on traditional resource extraction industries to one based on high-technology firms, real estate and recreational enterprises. On the environmental side, economic growth and development are shifting

agricultural and forested land to residential and commercial development. Hence, while growth has bolstered the economy, it has reduced open spaces, fish and wildlife habitats, and natural amenities, thereby compromising the very values that make the region attractive to new residents.

Sustaining Rocky Mountain Landscapes: Science, Policy and Management for the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem is a forthcoming edited volume focusing on five aspects of sustaining mountain landscapes in the CCE and similar regions in the Rocky Mountains. The five aspects are: 1) how social, economic, demographic and environmental forces are transforming ecosystem structure and function, 2) trends in use and conditions for human and environmental resources, 3) activating science, policy and education to enhance sustainable landscape management, 4) challenges to sustainable management of public and private lands, and 5) future prospects for achieving sustainable landscapes.

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